

1998 Bilingual Students in Massachusetts Public Schools Students Whose Primary Language is not English (PLINE)

The following is the most recent data from the Department of Education which compiles statistics about bilingual elementary, middle, and high school students--or PLINE students (Primary Language is not English). As in previous years, the statistics from 1998 covering all school districts statewide continue to provide an interesting look at Massachusetts newcomer communities, highlighting dominant languages, concentrations of communities, and concentration of PLINE students.

The 1998 statistics follow similar patterns from past years, with an increase in the total number of PLINE students and, in most cases, slight increases in the dominant languages. The table below summarizes the student statistics for 1997 and 1998. The table on page two lists the 12 most frequent languages spoken, the number of students speaking the language and the PLINE percentage they represent in Massachusetts schools in 1997 and 1998. The tables on the following pages lists school districts throughout the Commonwealth whose 1998 PLINE enrollment is above 10 percent and includes the most frequent languages spoken, total PLINE enrollment and total student enrollment.

1997		1998	
Total PLINE Students Statewide	119,808	Total PLINE Students Statewide	122,891
Total Students Statewide	950,334	Total Students Statewide	963,761
Percentage PLINE Students	12.61%	Percentage PLINE Students	
	12.75%		

Summary/highlights from the 1998 statistics:

- As in previous years, over half of all **PLINE** students speak Spanish; Spanish-speaking students account for 6.5 percent of the total student enrollment.
- Over twelve percent of **all** students-- about one out of eight--speak a language other than English. One out of eight **PLINE** students speaks a Southeast Asian language.
- The main concentration of PLINE students is again this year in the Greater Boston area with additional major clusters around Springfield and in Worcester, Lowell, Brockton, New Bedford, Lynn, Fall River and Lawrence.
- PLINE students account for more than half the students in Lawrence (79.39%) and Chelsea (67.06%). PLINE students account for a third or more of the students in Lowell (49.98%), Holyoke (48.33%), Somerville (42.86%), Boston (35.59%), Lynn (34.40%), Cambridge (32.8%) and Fall River (30.99%).
- In 1998, Khmer replaced Chinese as the 3rd most frequently spoken language.
- Over One hundred and ten (110) different languages and dialects are spoken throughout Massachusetts.

1997 and 1998 PLINE Students

1997 TOTAL STUDENTS STATEWIDE	950,334	1998 TOTAL STUDENTS STATEWIDE	963,761
1997 PERCENTAGE OF PLINE STUDENTS	12.61%	1997 PERCENTAGE OF PLINE STUDENTS	12.75%

	1997	1997	1998	1998
LANGUAGE	TOTAL NUMBER SPOKEN	PERCENT OF PLINE STUDENTS	TOTAL NUMBER SPOKEN	PERCENT OF PLINE STUDENTS
SPANISH	62,271	51.9	62,861	51.2
PORTUGUESE	11,369	9.6	11,672	9.5
KHMER	7,599	6.3	7,706	6.3
CHINESE **	6,544	5.5	7,019	5.7
VIETNAMESE	5,696	4.8	5,712	4.6
CAPE VERDEAN	4,050	3.4	4,759	3.9
HAITIAN CREOLE	3,931	3.3	4,403	3.6
RUSSIAN	2,836	2.3	2,995	2.4
FRENCH	1,998	1.7	1,833	1.5
ARABIC	1,141	1.0	1,201	1.0
GREEK	1,062	0.9	1,027	.8
KOREAN	992	.8	872	.7

** Includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese

Prepared by: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family & Community Health, Office of Refugee & Immigrant Health

Data Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, Accountability and Evaluation Services

1998 Student Enrollment Whose Primary Language is not English (PLINE) Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns *

TOWN	Cape Verdean	Chinese**	French	Greek	Haitian Creole	Khmer	Lao	Portuguese	Russian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Other Languages	Total PLINE	Total Enrollment	Percent PLINE
Attleboro	2	8	2	2	--	235	1	101	5	237	--	Hindi--15 Thai--14 Arabic--10	709	6,802	10.42
Boston	1,977	2,178	1,283	120	1,113	184	29	445	49	11,960	1,977	Arabic--76 Italian--19	22,435	63,043	35.59
Brockton	2,150	89	5	8	557	35	17	175	2	997	51	Hindi--2 Hmong--44 Urdu--4	4,218	16,660	25.32
Brookline	1	353	26	14	25	4	--	42	428	163	15	Hebrew--134 Korean--88 Japanese--148	1,664	5,977	27.84
Cambridge	35	191	34	12	535	5	1	311	20	762	9	Arabic--27 Bengali--60 Korean--88	2,442	7,446	32.80
Chelsea	21	27	8	1	60	136	1	39	--	3,140	202	Armenian--6	3,866	5,765	67.06
Everett	2	25	10	6	160	8	--	231	--	476	182	Italian--55	1256	5,268	23.84
Fall River	8	34	1	2	3	525	7	2,648	3	446	25	Arabic--19 Thai--1	3,756	12,121	30.99
Fitchburg	--	3	1	14	2	14	137	11	2	1,095	66	Hmong--295	1,693	5,901	28.69
Framingham	--	61	26	14	13	6	--	585	64	987	24	Gujarati--33 Hebrew--29 Hindi--26	2,080	7,893	26.35

* Includes cities and towns where student PLINE enrollment is 10 percent or more.

Table lists only most frequent languages spoken.

** Includes Mandarin and Cantonese

1998 Student Enrollment Whose Primary Language is not English (PLINE) Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns *

TOWN	Cape Verdean	Chinese**	French	Greek	Haitian Creole	Khmer	Lao	Portuguese	Russian	Spanish	Vietnamese	Other Languages	Total PLINE	Total Enrollment	Percent PLINE
Haverhill	--	17	9	37	7	10	--	12	2	874	22	Arabic--16 Polish--6	1,051	8,566	12.27
Holyoke	--	2	--	--	--	9	--	2	2	3,652	3	Polish--6	3,680	7,614	48.33
Hudson	--	4	--	2	2	--	1	394	1	49	1	Polish--5	465	2,711	17.15
Lawrence	--	21	5	1	1	224	--	34	2	9,365	135	Arabic--27	9,859	12,419	79.39
Leominster	--	6	7	--	4	6	38	10	--	447	9	Gujarati--2 Korean--9	632	6,210	10.18
Lowell	1	35	8	23	20	3,726	404	390	5	3,024	257	Arabic--11 Gujarati--132	8,166	16,338	49.98
Lynn	1	22	48	94	60	1,473	89	34	77	2,887	179	Italian--4 Somali--35	5,100	14,826	34.40
Malden	16	455	4	8	238	28	6	90	27	232	292	Arabic--46 Italian--28	1,642	5,510	29.80
Methuen	--	6	4	6	3	11	1	14	3	626	36	Arabic--35 Gujarati--25 Korean--12	803	6,728	11.94
New Bedford	229	21	12	7	5	--	--	1,133	--	1,066	11	Arabic--1 Thai--2	2,517	14,683	17.14
Newton	1	324	25	44	6	4	3	21	409	195	35	Hebrew--142 Italian--61 Korean--72	1,884	11,166	16.87

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Norwood	1	19	9	22	20	1	1	39	20	65	7	Arabic--75 Italian--37	452	3,538	12.78
Quincy	7	1109	3	27	13	4	--	33	12	95	194	Arabic--65	1,739	9,008	19.31
Randolph	14	138	--	8	220	4	1	19	1	78	56	Arabic--6 Filipino--12	668	4,137	16.15
Revere	4	20	13	2	23	550	--	95	13	531	73	Arabic--60 Italian--67	1,602	6,069	26.40
Salem	--	24	4	21	17	5	2	40	23	986	38	Albanian--14 Polish--10	1,221	5,110	23.89
Somerville	28	68	2	34	438	14	--	951	8	865	54	Arabic--25 Italian--30	2,759	6,437	42.86
Southbridge	--	2	--	5	--	--	49	--	3	638	--	Polish--17	725	2,576	28.14
Springfield	5	45	1	2	8	13	29	15	157	6,164	169	Italian--12 Polish--8	6,668	25,524	26.12
Taunton	69	10	1	3	4	--	2	453	3	287	7	Italian--5	859	8,019	10.71
Waltham	1	66	8	18	262	2	23	17	22	819	57	Armenian--45 Italian--48	1,617	5,281	30.62
Watertown	1	32	9	54	18	--	--	15	34	75	33	Arabic--47 Armenian--189	645	2,734	23.59
Westfield	1	3	--	--	--	--	--	1	237	240	4	Korean--7 Arabic--5 Polish--13	667	6,710	9.94
Worcester	1	70	9	49	30	71	21	91	49	3,758	971	Albanian--175 Arabic--38 Polish--107	5,657	25,412	22.26

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